was sanctioned by Government of India to Maharashtra as advance plan assistance under drought relief for taking up drinking water schemes in the drought affected areas.

**Complaints against , prtoject coordi. nator, barley project, IARI, Karnal**

825. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA;
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi has received a memorandum on behalf of the employees of the Barley Project IARI Regional Station, Karnal in February, 1986 regarding irregularities in purchases and funds, tempernig of official records, misuse of official vehicles etc. against the Project Coordinator (Barley);

(b) what are the details of the charges made;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the allegations;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is a fact that some of the staff members of the said re gional station have been harassed for making these complaints, if so, what action has been taken to prote cted the staff members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The charges are generally of the nature indicated in part (a) of the Question.

(c) to (e) The matter is under in-vestigation of the Council in Consultation with Director, IARI, New Delhi. Suitable action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. The staff will not be allowed to be harassed for ventilating genuine grievances.

**Drought in Maharashtra**

826. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maha-rashtra is again facing a drought this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what financial assistance the Central Government have provided or propose to provide to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of. damages caused due to continuing drought as reported by the State Government is *as under:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Districts affected | — | 23 |
| 2. Population affected | — | 180.74 lakhs |
| 3. Cropped area affected | — | 58.88 lakh ha. |
| 4. Cattle population affected | — | 81.00 lakhs |

(c) A ceiling of Rs. 87.24 crores as Central assistance has been approved so far for 1985-86 including Rs. 21.68 crores for 1986-87.

**T.V. Towers at Vishakapatnam and Vijayawada**

827. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR) REDDY; Will the Minister of IN-FORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up which high powered TV